The following <u>Listing of the Claims</u> will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

<u>Listing of The Claims:</u>

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A method for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a vaginal specimen, wherein said specimen contains cervical cells and few or no endocervical cells, said method comprising: (a) obtaining said vaginal specimen with a device comprising a collection element, said collection element comprising a brush, wherein said brush has a longitudinal axis, and wherein said brush comprises bristles that are substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said brush, and an inner tube, <u>wherein said brush is attached to said inner tube</u>; and (b) detecting the presence of HPV in the specimen.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said brush is attached to said inner tube.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said device further comprises a shield in a form of an outer tube that surrounds said collection element.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of detecting the presence of HPV in said specimen comprises (a) extracting DNA from the specimen, and (b) detecting the presence of the HPV DNA in the specimen.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of detecting the presence of HPV in said specimen comprises amplification of HPV nucleic acid.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of detecting the presence of HPV comprises (a) contacting the specimen with a first polypeptide that binds to an HPV protein; and (b) detecting the presence of the HPV protein in the specimen.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said first polypeptide is an HPV specific antibody.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the step of detecting the presence of the HPV protein in the sample comprises (a) contacting the specimen with a second polypeptide which binds to said HPV specific antibody; and (b) detecting the presence of said HPV specific antibody bound to said HPV protein in the specimen.

33. (Cancel)

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the HPV is high risk HPV (hrHPV) and wherein detection of the presence of high risk HPV comprises assaying the specimen for the presence of high risk HPV.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said longitudinal axis runs parallel to a longitudinal axis of said inner tube.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said inner tube element and said outer tube are cylindrical in shape, and wherein the length of said inner tube and said outer tube are roughly equal.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 or 35, wherein said bristles comprise a flexible material selected from the group consisting of: polyethylene, polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, polysiloxanes and nylon.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said device does not use an absorbent material to collect the sample.

39. (New) A method for collecting a vaginal specimen useful for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in said specimen, wherein said specimen contains cervical cells and few or no endocervical cells, said method comprising: (a) obtaining said vaginal specimen with a device comprising a collection element, said collection element comprising a brush, wherein said brush has a longitudinal axis, and wherein said brush comprises bristles that are substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said brush, and an inner tube, wherein said brush is attached to said inner tube.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising (b) detecting the presence of HPV in the specimen.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the HPV is high risk HPV, and wherein detection of the presence of high risk HPV comprises assaying the specimen for the presence of high risk HPV.